

**From:** [WaterISAC](#)  
**To:** [Smith, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** Advisory: Malicious Actor Compromises U.S. Water Treatment Plant, Changes Chemical Level  
**Date:** Monday, February 08, 2021 6:00:40 PM

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WaterISAC Members:

Today officials in Florida announced that late last week an unknown malicious actor infiltrated a water treatment plant in the city of Oldsmar and made changes to chemical levels in the treatment process. Fortunately this activity was quickly observed by a plant operator and reversed. Officials indicated that the public was never in danger due to the operator's quick action as well as to other measures that would have prevented the release of the water into the distribution system.

Access [the press conference recording](#) and [related local news article](#).

Speaking about the incident during a press conference earlier today, the Pinellas County Sheriff noted that a plant operator observed two intrusions last Friday that were hours apart. In the second intrusion, which lasted about five minutes, the operator saw the mouse moving around as the hacker accessed various functions. One of these functions controls the amount of sodium hydroxide in the water, which the malicious actor changed from about 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million. The operator observed this change and immediately reversed it. The Sheriff also emphasized it would have taken between 24 and 36 hours for the water to reach the distribution system and that there are redundancies in place to check water quality before release.

Law enforcement authorities are still investigating the incident. They indicated they currently do not know whether the compromise

originated from the U.S. or abroad.

While unfortunate, (b) (4)

As more is learned about this incident, WaterISAC will share information with its members and partners to help inform their security measures. In the meantime, WaterISAC strongly recommends members review and implement the mitigation measures bellow to protect themselves from similar activity:

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- The WaterISAC Team



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and for water sector professionals.

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